* Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sectors.

Deaths of children due to malnutrition

†2234. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of children die due to malnutrition in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider to take any specific steps to check it; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) It is estimated that malnutrition is a contributory factor in about fifty per cent of deaths in children. Several steps have been taken to improve nutritional status of children. These include, promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices. The Integrated Child Development Scheme is being implemented to provide supplementary nutrition to young children and pregnant and lactating mothers. To prevent micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron, prophylactic programmes are under implementation.

Medical facilities for CGHS beneficiaries in private hospitals

2235. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fresh scheme has been formulated recently to allow certain categories of beneficiaries of the Central Government Health Scheme to avail of medical facilities in various private hospital also;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the list of such private hospitals in the capital and other leading towns in the country with the specific facilities available there and their appointed liaison officers to facilitate hassle-free application of the new scheme; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.